



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

Department of Administration
STATEWIDE PLANNING PROGRAM
One Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908 - 5872

January 6, 2006

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PLANNING CHALLENGE GRANTS**

The Rhode Island Department of Administration, Statewide Planning Program, invites state agencies, cities, towns, regional planning organizations, and qualified non-profit agencies to submit proposals to compete for grants being offered for transportation and land use-related planning and implementation studies. There is a total of **\$250,000** available which will likely be awarded in amounts of \$25,000 to \$75,000 to 4-6 recipients. Each grantee must provide a match totaling 20% of the project's total cost. The submission deadline is **February 24, 2006 @ 3:00 PM**.

BACKGROUND:

The State Guide Plan, through elements addressing both Land Use and Transportation, recommends an integrated approach to land use and transportation planning in community development to concentrate growth in locations best suited to accommodate it, support efficient use of existing public facilities and services, and minimize congestion and environmental and community impacts. In support of the State Guide Plan, the Growth Planning Council's (2003) [Growth Centers](http://www.planning.ri.gov/gpc/pdf/gpc.pdf) proposal (see: <http://www.planning.ri.gov/gpc/pdf/gpc.pdf>) and the State Planning Council's Growth Centers Amendment to [Handbook 16](http://www.planning.ri.gov/comp/growthcenters.pdf) (see <http://www.planning.ri.gov/comp/growthcenters.pdf>) on preparing Municipal Comprehensive Plans offers municipalities the opportunity to designate Growth Centers as a means to focus their growth and development activities in the most suitable locations. This grant offering provides opportunities for municipalities and other entities to advance planning initiatives designed to improve coordination between land use and transportation planning in support of the recommendations of the State Guide Plan's Transportation and Land Use Elements.

In addition, the Transportation Element of the State Guide Plan ([Transportation 2025](http://www.planning.ri.gov/transportation/cover.pdf), August 2004) (see <http://www.planning.ri.gov/transportation/cover.pdf>) includes numerous recommendations for effective development and management of the state's transportation system in support of mobility, economic development, energy, environmental quality, community character, safety and security, and other objectives. This grant offering will further the State's efforts in transportation planning and provide support for municipal and regional planning efforts which implement recommendations contained in Transportation 2025 (State Guide Plan Element 611) and other related State Guide Plan Elements.

PROPOSALS MUST:

- Have a transportation planning focus (e.g., address multimodal transportation system issues, and/or the interaction between transportation and other aspects of community development including land use, housing, and economic development).
- Propose planning process products that lead to implementation and advance solutions to the issues proposed for study.
- Demonstrate municipal government support and project sponsor commitment to implementation.
- Provide opportunities for public involvement and participation in the study process.

ELIGIBLE GRANTEES:

- State agencies
- Municipal governments
- Regional planning agencies
- Other qualified non-profit entities (Non-profit entities will be required to work through a municipality serving as the recipient and fiscal agent for the grant.)

Grantees may seek consultant services to complete the studies.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES:

Grants are available to support planning services and related administrative costs. Proposals are encouraged which address one or more of the following focus areas:

- **Access management** – regional or local proposals for land use measures (development of comprehensive plan/zoning/development review code amendments, etc.) that will provide for coordination of access to reduce curb-cuts, preserve capacity and functionality, and improve environmental/aesthetic values within arterial highway corridors.
- **Transportation aspects of affordable housing development** -- regional or local proposals for planning or implementation (development of comprehensive plan/zoning/development review code amendments, etc.) that facilitate the availability of affordable housing (as defined in federal and state law) in a manner that supports both the efficient operation of the state transportation system, and provides enhanced access for low and moderate income residents to transit services and employment opportunities. Proposals may include study of transportation issues associated with the development of affordable housing, such as efficient provision of parking in mixed use or village center areas.
- **Growth Centers** – regional or local proposals for planning or implementation (development of comprehensive plan/zoning/development review code amendments, etc.) that facilitate coordinated development/redevelopment of high density, mixed use centers meeting the criteria for Growth Center designation adopted by the State Planning Council in [Handbook 16: Standards for the Local Comprehensive Plan](#)
- **Transit-Oriented Development** – regional or local proposals for land use planning or implementation (development of comprehensive plan/zoning/development review code amendments, etc.) that facilitate coordinated development/redevelopment of high density, mixed use areas within a ½ mile radius of existing or planned commuter rail stations, RIPTA hubs, or heavily traveled RIPTA routes.

- **Transportation Demand Management** – State, regional or local proposals for coordinated planning which will led to establishment of programs or measures to effectively manage transportation demand and reduce single-occupant vehicle trips within a high demand sector (e.g., State government, region, corridor, or area (hospital, university, industrial park, etc.)). All such proposals must be closely coordinated with RIPTA and avoid duplication of existing services, such as ride-sharing/carpool-matching.
- **Energy Efficiency in Transportation** – Development and implementation of plans or programs, such as flextime, telecommuting, fleet conversion, and other employer programs that reduce commuting and congestion, provide transportation sector energy savings, and reduce emissions that contribute to greenhouse gases.
- **Scenic Roadway Corridor Management** – Development of management plans for local or regional scenic roadway systems, including studies of coordinated land use management (development of comprehensive plan/zoning/development review code amendments, etc.), land protection, and facility management (design guidelines, landscaping, coordinated signage systems, etc.) to effect retention and enhancement of the scenic characteristics of state-designated scenic roadway corridors, or locally-significant roadway corridors to support community character and tourism. All such proposals should demonstrate close coordination with the RI Scenic Roadways Board.
- **Transportation System Aspects of Emergency Management** – Transportation planning measures that will improve the security of critical elements of the state’s transportation infrastructure, and or enhance local planning and preparedness to respond to and manage transportation system emergencies. All such proposals must demonstrate close coordination with the RI Emergency Management Agency and/or RI Department of Transportation (if affecting State roads or highways).
- **Land Use Digital Data Development**—Development of new digital geographic land use data which meet RIGIS standards for parcel-level data and are accepted into the RIGIS.
- **Other Transportation-Related Planning Activities** -- Such as plans addressing bicycle, pedestrian, transit, or freight modes, or parking, etc. that clearly support implementation of one or more of the goals, objectives, or strategies of the Transportation Element of the State Guide Plan. All such proposals must demonstrate close coordination with the RI Department of Transportation, and/or RIPTA, as appropriate.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

Application:

- Cover letter, signed by authorized representative of project sponsor, giving name(s), address(es), phone number(s), fax number(s), and e-mail address(es) of proposed project manager and fiscal agent (if different). (1 page)
- Description of transportation–land use issues to be addressed and objectives for the study (2 pages. max.)
- Scope of Work, Proposed Budget, and requested grant amount (5 pages max.)
- Timeline for completing the study (not to exceed twelve (12) months) (1 page max.)
- Description of the means for assuring appropriate coordination with state agencies and programs where indicated as required above (1 page max.)

Attachments:

- Map depicting the project area and transportation facilities to be studied (1 - 8 ½" x 11" page)
- Letters of support from municipalities and other partners in the study area (especially for multi-community projects)
- Letter(s) of Commitment to provide match of 20% of total project cost, signed by authorized representative(s). (Note: Sponsor match can include fully-documented staff time and other in-kind services.)
- Applicants other than state agencies and cities or towns must demonstrate prior experience in state or federal grant management and provide a letter from a municipality agreeing to act as the fiscal agent for the project.

Proposals must be received by Statewide Planning on or before Friday, February 24, 2006 at 3:00 PM. Responses must include an original plus ten [10] printed copies, and one electronic copy, preferably as a Microsoft Word file, on CD media. Proposals should be mailed or hand-delivered in a sealed envelope marked "PLANNING CHALLENGE GRANT PROPOSAL".

By Mail or Courier: **RI Dept. of Administration
Statewide Planning, 3rd floor
One Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908-5872
ATTN: George Johnson**

NOTE: Proposals received after the above-referenced due date and time or missing required information will not be considered. Proposals faxed to Statewide Planning or misdirected to other State locations will not be considered.

EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS:

Responses will be evaluated, scored and ranked by a multi-interest Evaluation Committee assembled by the Statewide Planning Program. Scoring of proposals will be based upon the following criteria:

Consistency with all applicable elements of the State Guide Plan	Threshold requirement
<u>Support for implementation</u> of one or more policies, objectives or recommendations of the Transportation and/or Land Use Elements of the State Guide Plan	25 %
<u>Transferability / applicability</u> of issues studied and solutions proposed to other jurisdictions in RI, and/or <u>demonstration of the workability</u> of transportation/land use techniques used elsewhere but not yet widely accepted or applied in RI	20 %
Demonstration of <u>partnership or regional approaches</u> to planning and implementation, to include the <u>leveraging</u> of non-sponsor funding	20 %
Commitment to <u>implementation</u> of innovative land use and multimodal transportation solutions. Likelihood of grant leading directly to implementation of solutions to issues studied.	15%
Requested <u>grant amount is consistent with level of effort</u> proposed in Scope of Work	15%
Degree of <u>citizen engagement /public participation</u> proposed	5%
TOTAL:	100%

The Evaluation Committee may request additional information from the applicant. The Committee will then make a recommendation to the Associate Director for Planning who will make the final award decision.

NOTIFICATIONS TO APPLICANTS:

All costs associated with developing or submitting a proposal in response to this request, or to provide oral or written clarification of its content shall be borne by the applicant. The State assumes no responsibility for these costs.

Applicants are advised that all materials submitted to the State of Rhode Island for consideration in response to this Request for Proposals will be considered to be public records, as defined in Title 38 Chapter 2 of the Rhode Island General Laws, without exception, and will be released for inspection immediately upon request, once an award has been made.

Although 4-6 grant recipients are envisioned, the State reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals or to offer a single grant at the full, or lesser, amount. **Grants are expected to be awarded in March 2006.** Any award resulting from this invitation will be subject to the State's General Conditions of Purchase, which is available from the Internet at: www.purchasing.state.ri.us, as well as the terms of this Request.

In accordance with Title 7, Chapter 1.1 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, no foreign corporation, a corporation without a Rhode Island business address, shall have the right to transact business in the state until it shall have procured a Certificate of Authority to do so from the Rhode Island Secretary of State.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

A workshop for potential applicants will be held on Tuesday, January 24, 2006 at 2:00 PM in Conference Room C, of the Rhode Island Department of Administration Building, One Capitol Hill, 2nd Floor, Providence. A summary of questions asked at the workshop and responses thereto, will also be posted to the Statewide Planning Program's website (www.planning.ri.gov) following the workshop.